

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 30-35, 37 and 38 are amended, and claims 1, 14, 26, 29 and 36 are canceled, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter found therein. No new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 2-13, 15-25, 27, 28, 30-35, 37 and 38 are pending in this application.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 2-13, 15-25, 27, 28, 30-35, 37 and 38 include allowable subject matter.

Claim 2 is rewritten in independent form including all features of the original base claim 1. Therefore, claim 2 is allowable. Claims 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18 and 20 depend from claim 2, and thus also are allowable.

Claim 3 is rewritten in independent form including all features of the original base claim 1. Therefore, claim 3 is allowable. Claims 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27 and 28 depend from claim 3, and thus also are allowable.

Claim 5 is rewritten in independent form including all features of the original base claim 1. Therefore, claim 5 is allowable. Claim 22 depends from claim 5, and thus also is allowable.

Claim 30 is rewritten in independent form including all features of the original base claim 29. Therefore, claim 30 is allowable. Claims 31-35, 37 and 38 are amended to depend from claim 30, and thus also are allowable.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 14, 29 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §101 for double patenting. The rejection is moot in view of canceled claims 1, 14, 29 and 36. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Fourth Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 14 and 36 under 35 U.S.C §112, fourth paragraph, as containing limitations identical to a base claim. The rejection is moot in view of canceled claims 14 and 36. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Claim Objection

The Office Action objects to claim 26, as being a substantial duplicative of claim 19. The objection is moot in view of canceled claim 26. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-13, 15-25, 27, 28, 30-35, 37 and 38 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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